

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
DRY FORMING ABSORBENT CORES**

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method for dry forming absorbent cores are disclosed. The apparatus has a rotatable drum having a substantially cylindrical surface. A vacuum surface having one or more holes is located substantially circumferentially around at least a portion of the substantially cylindrical surface. A vacuum chamber is located within the rotatable drum. The vacuum chamber has one or more vacuum passages forming a vacuum zone subadjacent at least a portion of the vacuum surface. A first casing sheet is supplied to overlie the vacuum surface at a first location, and a fibrous material is supplied to overlie the first casing sheet at a second location. A supply of particulate matter is deposited onto the fibrous material at a third location, and a second casing sheet is supplied to overlie the first casing sheet, fibrous material and particulate matter at a fourth location, thereby forming an absorbent core composite.